

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (original) An external preparation for skin, which comprises a multi-branched polysaccharide derivative with multi-branched polysaccharide skeleton consisting of saccharides as constituent units, wherein at least one of hydroxyl (OH) groups in the multi-branched polysaccharide skeleton is substituted by OR wherein R represents a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon having 1 to 30 carbon groups or a hydrocarbon having 1 to 30 carbon groups which has hetero atom.
2. (original) The external preparation for skin according to claim 1, wherein the multi-branched polysaccharide skeleton comprises a polymer consisting of monomers of anhydrosaccharide and/or anhydrosaccharide derivative in which at least one hydroxyl (OH) group is substituted by OR wherein R represents a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon having 1 to 30 carbon groups or a hydrocarbon having 1 to 30 carbon groups which has hetero atom.
3. (original) The external preparation for skin according to claim 2, wherein the anhydrosaccharide or the anhydrosaccharide moiety in the anhydrosaccharide derivative is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of 1,6-anhydrosaccharide, 1,4-anhydrosaccharide, 1,3-anhydrosaccharide, 1,2-anhydrosaccharide and 5,6-anhydrosaccharide.
4. (original) The external preparation for skin according to claim 2, wherein the polymer is obtained by cation polymerization or anion polymerization.
5. (original) The external preparation for skin according to claim 1, wherein the branching degree of the multi-branched polysaccharide is 0.05 to 1.00.

6. (currently amended) The external preparation for skin according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the amount of the multi-branched polysaccharide contained therein is 0.1 to 80 mass %.
7. (currently amended) A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin according claim 1 ~~to any one of claims 1 to 6~~.
8. (new) The external preparation for skin according to claim 2, wherein the amount of the multi-branched polysaccharide contained therein is 0.1 to 80 mass %.
9. (new) The external preparation for skin according to claim 3, wherein the amount of the multi-branched polysaccharide contained therein is 0.1 to 80 mass %.
10. (new) The external preparation for skin according to claim 4, wherein the amount of the multi-branched polysaccharide contained therein is 0.1 to 80 mass %.
11. (new) The external preparation for skin according to claim 5, wherein the amount of the multi-branched polysaccharide contained therein is 0.1 to 80 mass %.
12. (new) A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin according claim 2.
13. (new) A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin according claim 3.
14. (new) A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin according claim 4.
15. (new) A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin according claim 5.
16. (new) A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin according claim 6.
17. (new) A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin according claim 8.

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18. (new) A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin according claim 9.
19. (new) A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin according claim 10.
20. (new) A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin according claim 11.